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Security Council

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Letter dated 24 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government today, I transmit herewith a resolution of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) dated 24 March 2011 (see annex).

The Government of Nigeria requests that this document be discussed in the course of the consultations of the Security Council scheduled to take place on Friday, 25 March 2011, in light of the request, contained therein, calling on the Security Council to authorize the immediate implementation of the ECOWAS decisions of December 2010.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) U. Joy **Ogwu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Resolution A/RES.1/03/11 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The Authority of the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, meeting in Abuja on 23 and 24 March 2011 at is thirty-ninth ordinary summit;

Having exhaustively reviewed the rapidly deteriorating political, security and humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire provoked by the disputed run-off presidential election of 28 November 2010,

Firmly condemning the wanton violence against civilians leading to unacceptable loss of life and property,

Deploring the deliberate targeting of innocent Ivorians, citizens of ECOWAS member States and other foreigners, and also the attacks on personnel of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,

Deeply concerned by the large waves of refugees fleeing across borders and the swelling colonies of internally displaced persons,

Convinced that the current situation is a direct consequence of the refusal of the outgoing President, Laurent Gbagbo, to cede power to Alassane Ouattara, the universally recognized winner of the 28 November 2010 election,

Recognizing that the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has now become a regional humanitarian emergency,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the extraordinary summits of the Authority on 7 and 24 December 2010, particularly paragraph 10 of the latter, which states: "in the event that Mr. Gbagbo fails to heed [the] immutable demand of ECOWAS [to hand over power], the Community would be left with no alternative but to take other measures, including the use of legitimate force, to achieve the goals of the Ivorian people",

Bearing in mind that these decisions have been endorsed by the African Union and the United Nations,

Firmly decides that the time has come to enforce its decisions of 7 and 24 December 2010 in order to protect life and to ensure the transfer of the reins of power to Alassane Ouattara without any further delay;

To this end, requests the United Nations Security Council to authorize the immediate implementation of the decisions of the Authority of December 2010;

In this context, requests the Security Council to strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, enabling the mission to use all necessary means to protect life and property, and to facilitate the immediate transfer of power to Alassane Ouattara;

Also requests the Security Council to adopt more stringent international targeted sanctions against Laurent Gbagbo and his associates;

Directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to explore all avenues of providing the Government of Alassane Ouattara all the necessary legal and diplomatic means to exercise its authority, including admitting the Government to all meetings of ECOWAS;

Urges all member States of ECOWAS to facilitate the accreditation of ambassadors and other representatives of Alassane Ouattara to their countries;

Further directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to intensify contingency plans to meet all eventualities, including the provision of humanitarian corridors and the protection of civilians;

Instructs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to take all appropriate measures to strengthen the ECOWAS presence in Côte d'Ivoire to facilitate the discharge of the responsibilities of the Community;

Urges the United Nations to request the international community to ensure an enabling environment for the population and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to go about their duties without any hindrance, and provide protection and welfare to the refugees and internally displaced persons generated by the crisis;

Finally, invites the African Union Commission to urgently implement the decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 10 March 2011 on Côte d'Ivoire by dispatching without delay the High Representative to the country and establishing the joint AU-ECOWAS facilitation team to ensure the immediate transfer of power to Alassane Ouattara.

The Authority decides to remain seized of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Done at Abuja, this 24th day of March 2011

Goodluck Ebele Jonathan
Chairman for the Authority